



Greater Norview Task Force Meeting MINUTES

Wednesday, July 10, 2013, 6:00 p.m.
Norview Community Center

The following people were present:

Stanley Stein	Margaret Hoots	Larry Hoots
George Homewood	Kevin Zerbe	Bev Sell
Officer Mendoza	Sgt. Bailey	Penny Brower
Bob Batcher	William Johnson	Frank Azzalina
Ron Manes	Victoria Jessie	Valerie Batts
Veronica Skinner	Aaron Grant	Dianna Grant
Senator Alexander	Yovonda Bellamy	Kristi Patchen
Earl Fraley	Lt. Squyres	Thad Moore
Jim Herbst		

The meeting was chaired by Stanley Stein who welcomed everyone.

1. Police Engagement Report

Officer Mendoza gave an update on the yard of the month program that she started and passed around artwork drawn by children from Norview Elementary School. Police also coordinated efforts with the Fire Marshall to respond to a nuisance property reported by the community. These are examples of community policing efforts and neighborhood problem solving. Police will also seek solutions to problems on Alexander Street mentioned at the meeting.

Lt. Squyres reported back concerning speeding on Widgeon Road. They placed a radar sign board on Widgeon Road, and he will report back to Garnzie West, president of the Coronado/Inglenook Civic League. They have issued several tickets. They will also be enforcing new state laws effective with the new fiscal year. These laws include restrictions on scooters.

2. Legislative Update

State Senator Kenny Alexander provided a legislative update. Significant new legislation includes state employee raises, a new state-wide truancy policy, extended tax relief to spouses of soldiers killed in the line of duty, and transportation funding. As a result of new transportation legislation and taxes, Hampton Roads is expected to receive \$200 million per year in the next five years.

3. Five Points Pedestrian Commercial Overlay (PCO) Text Amendment

George Homewood, Assistant Director of the Department of Planning and Community Development, attended to address questions and concerns about a proposed text amendment to the Five Points PCO. The owner of the Norfolk Pawn (6177 Sewells Point Road) would like to purchase the former BB&T building (6145 Sewells Point Road) and relocate his pawn shop to that location. Moving the pawn shop would only be permissible if a text amendment were made to the Five Points PCO adding "Pawnshop" as a permitted use. The Norview Civic League sent a letter of support after the owner of Norfolk Pawn presented his proposal to the civic league. Based on the letter from the civic league, the Planning Department put the proposed amendment on the agenda of the June 27, 2013 Planning Commission Public Hearing. The Five Points Partnership, the Norview Heights Civic League, and the Estabrook Civic League, however, sent letters opposing the proposed change to the PCO with concerns about additional pawn shops and the best use of that building. Some members of these groups attended the Planning Commission hearing. The Planning Commission voted to not recommend the text amendment change to City Council.

Members of the task force raised concerns, and a representative of the Norview Civic League indicated they did not fully understand the consequences of their letter and may reconsider when they meet in September. Other members of the task force were concerned about the process. Mr. Homewood and Mr. Stein will recommend that the item not be placed on the City Council agenda until after the next task force meeting in September when it could be better addressed by all parties. A meeting in August to further clarify community interest was discussed.

Mr. Homewood also mentioned the McDonalds Corporation's intention to reconfigure and rebuild the Five Points McDonalds Restaurant. There was no objection.

4. N.I.C.E. Block

Jim Herbst reminded members of the availability of N.I.C.E. Block funds for small projects in the area. These could include small neighborhood capital projects or projects such as small improvements to the Sewells Point Road Business Corridor. The purpose is to encourage citizens and businesses getting involved by investing money and volunteer labor into making the area better.

5. Business Promotion

Kevin Zerbe, Executive Intern with the Bureau of Community Enrichment, offered to set up a meeting to facilitate a conversation between businesses, property owners, and city staff concerning incentives and possible joint improvements to the business corridor. Members of the task force were receptive.

6. Announcements

- Neighborhood Expo (Citywide) – Saturday, October 19, Southside Aquatic Center

Next Meeting

Wednesday, September 11, 2013, 6:00 p.m. - Norview Community Center

"Healthy Neighborhoods are places where the community manages the day to day life of the neighborhood to successful outcomes. They are places where it makes sense to invest time, energy, and money."

- Charles Buki, neighborhood consultant

Looking Good Greater Norview

July 2013

Neighborhood Spotlight

Norview Community Resource Fair July 13—11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Norview Community Center is hosting a community resource fair featuring entertainment, displays and community resources. The Rising Sun Mason Lodge #2 is providing food. Neighborhood awards will also be presented at 1:30 p.m.

Civic League Celebrations

Many of the area civic leagues take a summer break. Some end the school year with special events. Norview Civic League, for instance, had a cookout. Coronado/Inglenook had a dinner with live music and used the event to honor widows and widowers in the neighborhood. Garnzie West and attorney Kevin Sharp handed out roses to the honorees.

Good Neighbors in East Norview

Although without a civic league, residents, churches, police, code inspectors, and other city staff have worked to make the east Norview area a better place. Walking the streets, you'll see signs of all the good neighbors taking pride in their community. Many owners have made significant investments in their property appearance and maintenance. Investors are also taking notice. Take for example the large house being built on Alexander Street. In fact, residential homes in E. Norview have sold faster and spent less time on the market than the city as a whole for the last five years.

COMMUNITY RESOURCE FAIR 2013



John Morsberger Retires

After 14 years of service, John Morsberger is retiring from the City of Norfolk. John joined the City after 20 years of service with the Navy and has devoted his life to public service and being a parent.

Another Gates Scholarship

Another student at Norview High School was named a Gates Scholar. Shandell Scott won the prestigious award and will receive a full ride scholarship which she plans on using at Brown University.

Yard of the Month

One of the tools Community Resource Officer Mendoza has used to engage the community is a yard of the month award. She invited students from Norview Elementary to submit drawings for the sign and to choose the yard.

Commercial Aesthetic Façade Grant Use

The Nepetra Corporation is the most recent business to apply for a commercial façade grant for the former Trahadas Studios property. They plan on replacing awnings, adding lighting, and power washing the exterior.

Norfolk Named an All American City

The National Civic League made Norfolk one of ten All American Cities, particularly for its initiatives with veterans. This can be another source of pride in attracting good neighbors and businesses to Norfolk.

Tidewater Drive Construction

Traffic and neighborhoods along Tidewater Drive from Philpotts Road north to the Little Creek Road intersection will be periodically impacted over the next two years for a series of construction projects. Search for "Tidewater Drive Improvement Projects" at www.norfolk.gov for more information.



Did You Know?

Did you know that a City Planning Commission map from 1924 shows the Five Points area as "Oldtown"?